

CHARLES F. THOMPSON

His Death at Noon Last Friday

His Long and Active Career in Brattleboro—President of the Brattleboro and Whitehall Railroad Company—Lifelong Interest in Work of the Centre Church and of the American Board—A Man of True Public Spirit.

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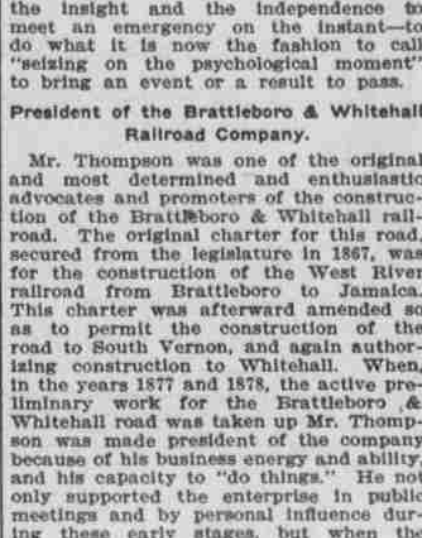
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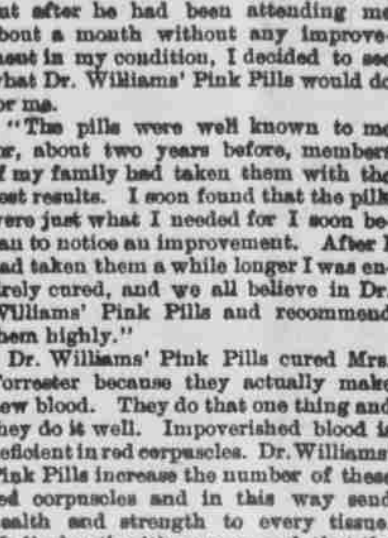
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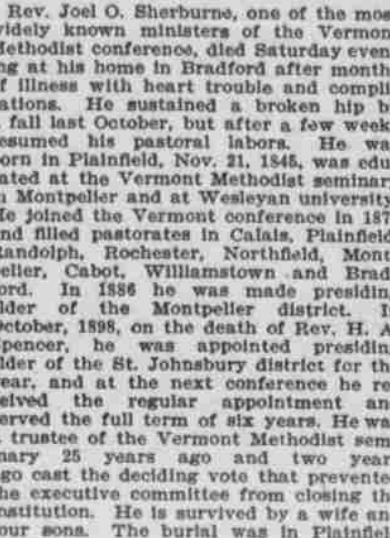
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The death of Deacon Charles Frederick Thompson, 75, clerk and treasurer of the Brattleboro Gas Light company and long identified with the business interests of Brattleboro, took place at 12.30 o'clock Friday at his residence at 14 North Main street. For more than a year he had been in failing health with bright disease. His decline had been particularly noticeable since the beginning of the year, and he had been confined to his home just a month. The end came quietly and peacefully.

Mr. Thompson was born in Seymour, Conn., Dec. 5, 1830, and was one of four children of Rev. Charles and Hannah



(Minor) Thompson. His father was a leading Congregational clergyman of his time and from 1832 to the time of his death in 1855 he was pastor of a church in Salem, Conn. His wife, the mother of Charles F. Thompson, died in 1879. Mr. Thompson came to Brattleboro from Salem, Conn., April 1, 1848, when he was 17 years of age, to be a clerk in William & Tyler's hardware store, the members of the firm being Nathan B. Williston and William Tyler. The firm afterwards was Tyler & Thompson and still later C. F. Thompson & Co. Mr. Thompson became a member of the firm in 1853 and continued in the firm until 1893, when he retired. In 1893, when his stock of goods was bought by the two other hardware firms in town, he retired from the firm. At that time the store was located where it had been for many years—where Freeman Scott's grocery store now is. Mr. Thompson began in 1850 to store the firm's stock in various lines of goods, including drugs and medicines. A large part of the hardware was imported by the firm from New York.

During his connection with the hardware business Mr. Thompson was associated in several other enterprises. He was one of a company of men who built the Brattleboro factory and conducted a furniture business therein under the name of the Brattleboro Furniture company. He was a member of the firm which built the Knitting Machine company, which made knitting machines in the same factory. Still later he had an interest in the Brattleboro Tool company, which made various tools and bits in the Carpenter shop company building. This business was sold on a royalty basis to C. E. Manning & Company of New York, the royalty contract expiring about 10 years ago.

He married Elizabeth Cune, daughter of Sarah Cune of Brattleboro, May 15, 1856. Her eight years they lived at the Cune house, the present home of the family on Main street. In 1863 Mr. Thompson bought the Judge Whitney place, which stood where the Dowley residence now stands. Five years later he had the place removed and built what is now the Dowley residence. The family lived there until 1885, when they again moved to their home in the old house on Main street which in the mean time had been modeled and enlarged. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson had four children: Mary P., who died in September, 1859; Frederick M., who died in November, 1887; Helen M., a graduate of Vassar college, now at the head of the Burnham House, one of the houses connected with the Burnham classical school at Northampton, Mass.; and